



**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-52. (Canceled).

53. (New) A device for removing doses of plastic material from an extruder and delivering the doses to a forming apparatus in which the doses are compression-moulded, the device comprising at least one removal element which is movable with respect to said extruder for removing a dose and is provided with a receptacle for receiving the dose removed from an outflow orifice of said extruder, said removal element comprising a severing element that is adapted to cut into the plastic material dispensed by said extruder along a severing edge that advances through the material from one side of said orifice to the other, said receptacle being shaped so as to accommodate said dose and allow expulsion thereof substantially in the direction of said severing edge, the receptacle retaining the dose while the at least one removing element moves from a first position, in which the at least one removing element interacts with the extruder, to a second position, in which the at least one removing element interacts with the forming apparatus, the receptacle depositing the dose into a recess associated to said forming apparatus and defining a molding chamber for the dose, wherein said severing edge defines a leading portion of said receptacle which is more advanced than a trailing portion of said receptacle in an intended direction of movement of said severing element.

54. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein said removal element is provided with an inlet passageway, which is partially bound by said severing edge and through which said dose is receivable into said receptacle, and an outlet passageway, transversely oriented with respect to said severing edge and through which said dose may be expelled from said receptacle.

55. (New) The device according claim 53, wherein said severing element is so shaped as to interact with said dose to an extent not significantly greater than said severing edge.

56. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein said severing element is constituted by a blade in which said severing edge is substantially perpendicular to the direction of advancement of said blade with respect to said extruder and is suitable to cut the plastic material along a surface that is tangent to the rim of the orifice of said extruder.

57. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein said severing element comprises a metallic wire that is substantially perpendicular to the advancement direction of said severing element with respect to said extruder and is adapted to cut the plastic material along a surface that is tangent to the rim of the orifice of said extruder.

58. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein said removal element is supported in a manner that allows adjustment with respect to said extruder in order to allow to keep said severing edge on the plane of tangency with the rim of the orifice of the extruder.

59. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein said removal element comprises an expelling device for expelling said dose from said receptacle.

60. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein said removal element comprises a back wall, the severing element that is fixed to a side of said back wall, and a movable side wall on the opposite side with respect to said severing element, said severing element, said back wall and said movable side wall forming said receptacle, said side wall being controlled by an actuation device for actuation of said side wall between a first end position and a second end position.

61. (New) The device according to claim 60, wherein said movable side wall is articulated to said back wall and has a rear tab that is contoured so as to interact with a respective

cylindrical abutment, and to actuate said side wall between said first end position and said second end position, a contrast spring being provided which is associated with said side wall in order to actuate said wall between said second end position and said first end position.

62. (New) The device according to claim 60, wherein said movable side wall is associated with an end of a stem of a pneumatic piston for actuating said side wall between said first end position and said second end position.

63. (New) The device according to claim 62, wherein said movable side wall is coupled rigidly to said end of the stem of said pneumatic piston.

64. (New) The device according to claim 60, wherein said movable side wall is connected to said back wall by means of an elastic lamina that is actuated by a cam follower.

65. (New) The device according to claim 64, wherein said cam follower is constituted by a roller that is supported by an arm that is rigidly coupled to said movable side wall of said removal element and is controlled by a stationary cam.

66. (New) The device according to claim 60, wherein in said first end position said movable side wall is arranged so as to retain, in said receptacle, said dose removed by said severing element, and in that in said second end position said movable side wall is arranged so as to release said dose from said receptacle.

67. (New) The device according to claim 60, for feeding doses of plastic material to a molding carousel, which comprises a disk that rotates synchronously with said carousel and peripherally supports said at least one element for removing said doses, wherein the orifice for the exit of said doses has a rim that lies on a surface that is substantially tangent to the plane of rotation of said severing edge.

68. (New) The device according to claim 67, wherein said disk is arranged with a rotation axis thereof vertical, said orifice is orientated substantially radially with respect to said rotation axis, said removal element is rigidly coupled to the lower face of said disk so that said severing edge is parallel to said rotation axis, and said receptacle is open downward in order to allow to unload the dose in a direction that is parallel to said rotation axis into a respective recess of the carousel that lies below said removal element.

69. (New) The device according to claim 67, wherein said disk is arranged with a rotation axis thereof horizontal, said orifice is parallel to said rotation axis, and said removal element is rigidly coupled to the lateral surface of said disk so that said severing edge is substantially radial with respect to the rotation axis of said disk, said receptacle of said dose being shaped so as to unload said dose in a direction that is parallel to said severing edge.

70. (New) The device according to claim 67, wherein said disk is arranged with a rotation axis thereof inclined, said extruder is arranged so that its axis forms an acute angle with said rotation axis, and said removal element is arranged on said disk so that said severing edge is tangent to said orifice.

71. (New) The device according to claim 67, wherein said disk is arranged with a rotation axis thereof inclined and forms a lower face, said removal element being rigidly coupled to said lower face so as to be orientated so that said severing edge is horizontal in an upper position for removing said dose and is vertical in a lower position for unloading said dose into a respective underlying recess.

72. (New) The device according to claim 67, and further comprising a plurality of said removal elements, which are distributed peripherally with respect to the rotation axis of said disk and are angularly mutually equidistant.

73. (New) The device according to claim 60, for feeding doses of plastic material to a molding carousel, which comprises a disk that rotates synchronously with said carousel and peripherally supports said at least one element for removing said doses, wherein the orifice for the exit of said doses has a rim that lies on a surface that is substantially tangent to the plane of rotation of said severing edge.

74. (New) The device according to claim 73, wherein said disk is arranged with a rotation axis thereof vertical, said orifice is orientated substantially radially with respect to said rotation axis, said removal element is rigidly coupled to the lower face of said disk so that said severing edge is parallel to said rotation axis, and said receptacle is open downward in order to allow to unload the dose in a direction that is parallel to said rotation axis into a respective recess of the carousel that lies below said removal element.

75. (New) The device according to claim 73, wherein said disk is arranged with a rotation axis thereof horizontal, said orifice is parallel to said rotation axis, and said removal element is rigidly coupled to the lateral surface of said disk so that said severing edge is substantially radial with respect to the rotation axis of said disk, said receptacle of said dose being shaped so as to unload said dose in a direction that is parallel to said severing edge.

76. (New) The device according to claim 73, wherein said disk is arranged with a rotation axis thereof inclined, said extruder is arranged so that its axis forms an acute angle with said rotation axis, and said removal element is arranged on said disk so that said severing edge is tangent to said orifice.

77. (New) The device according to claim 73, wherein said disk is arranged with a rotation axis thereof inclined and forms a lower face, said removal element being rigidly coupled to said lower face so as to be orientated so that said severing edge is horizontal in an upper

position for removing said dose and is vertical in a lower position for unloading said dose into a respective underlying recess.

78. (New) The device according to claim 73, and further comprising a plurality of said removal elements, which are distributed peripherally with respect to the rotation axis of said disk and are angularly mutually equidistant.

79. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein said forming apparatus comprises a rotatable turntable provided with lower mold parts of compression molding units in which said molding chamber is defined.

80. (New) The device according to claim 53, wherein said forming apparatus comprises a conveyor belt on which closures advance, said molding chamber being defined in said closures.

81. (New) A device for removing doses of plastic material from an extruder and delivering the doses to a forming apparatus in which the doses are compression-moulded, the device comprising at least one removal element which is movable with respect to said extruder for removing a dose and is provided with a receptacle for receiving the dose removed from an outflow orifice of said extruder, said removal element comprising a severing element that is adapted to cut into the plastic material dispensed by said extruder along a severing edge that advances through the material from one side of said orifice to the other, said removal element being provided with an inlet passageway which is partially bound by said severing edge and through which said dose is receivable into said receptacle, wherein said removal element is further provided with an outlet passageway transversely oriented with respect to said severing edge and through which said dose may be expelled from said receptacle, the receptacle retaining the dose while the at least one removing element moves from a first position, in which the at least one removing element interacts with the extruder, to a second position, in which the at least

one removing element interacts with the forming apparatus, the receptacle depositing the dose into a recess associated to said forming apparatus and defining a molding chamber for the dose.

82. (New) The device according to claim 81, wherein said forming apparatus comprises a rotatable turntable provided with lower mold parts of compression molding units in which said molding chamber is defined.

83. (New) The device according to claim 81, wherein said forming apparatus comprises a conveyor belt on which closures advance, said molding chamber being defined in said closures.